



*Making
your
garden
flutter*


Plant for Life

Butterflies in decline

When you visualise butterflies, you think of beautiful, delicate and iridescent creatures that bring peace and tranquillity to your garden. But, when was the last time you saw a butterfly fluttering around your flowerbeds?

The reality is that of the 59 resident butterfly species that remain in Britain today, three quarters are in decline, which is why PlantforLife has joined forces with Butterfly Conservation to show you how easy it is to attract butterflies back into the garden.

Even the five most common garden butterflies, the Large White, Small White, Red Admiral, Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell have seen their population fall, with numbers of the Small Tortoiseshell falling by **58 per cent since 1990.**

The most worrying fact of all is that certain butterfly species are heading for extinction including:



HIGH BROWN FRITILLARY¹

A large butterfly, golden orange in colour with rows of black dots

WOOD WHITE²

Small butterfly, creamy white in colour with grey tips



PEARL BORDERED FRITILLARY³

Medium-sized, orange and black butterfly with silver markings on the underside

DUKE OF BURGUNDY⁴

A small butterfly, orange and brown in colour



Loss of habitat remains the primary cause for this decline, which means green space is more important than ever for butterflies' survival and anyone with a garden or even a window box can help make a difference in preserving these beautiful species.



Chris Collins,
Celebrity gardener

“Butterflies play an essential role in the garden by contributing to a healthy environment by transporting pollen from plant to plant. This guide explains

why you should protect the butterflies that already visit your garden, but more importantly, shows how you can encourage others back to create a beautiful butterfly haven of your own.”

Within this guide, find out details of how you can win a family trip to the European Butterfly House, Parc Floral de Paris.

^{1,2.} Photography by Jim Asher. Images provided by Butterfly Conservation.

^{3,4.} Photography by Peter Eeles. Images provided by Butterfly Conservation.

How to create a butterfly haven

Whatever type of garden you have, from rolling acres to a compact container garden it is surprisingly easy to make it butterfly friendly.

Remember, the greater the variety of plants with large, brightly coloured flowers you grow, the more butterflies will visit.

Follow these six simple steps and watch your garden turn into a butterfly haven.

1

Butterflies love heavily scented flowers, so try planting Sedum spectabile, and Verbena bonariensis which can attract many of these charming insects into your garden

2

Plant shrubs and small trees such as Common Honeysuckle around the edges of your garden to provide shelter for butterflies, but ensure that your flower beds are in full sunlight

3

Make sure you plant a variety of flowers that are available from early spring to autumn. Plants such as Buddleja davidii “Harlequin” will give butterflies the fuel needed to keep them airborne

4

Change the way you think about your garden. Small numbers of caterpillars might turn into gorgeous butterflies, so don't get rid of them, instead imagine a butterfly in the late summer sun

5

Trim and prune your borders to allow more light into your garden which will encourage plants to grow

6

Palms, bamboos and box topiary might add to a contemporary look, but they won't attract butterflies. Leave some space for flowers which will add colour to your garden



Did you know?

A garden might be visited by 22 species of butterfly, depending upon where you live. Turn over to reveal the top butterfly friendly plants.



Food sources for butterflies

Nectar rich plants are great for attracting butterflies and there are so many to choose from. Plant a mixture of bright and soft colours to attract butterflies and enable them to find your garden easily.

Here's a guide to the top nine butterfly friendly plants, suitable for gardens of any size or nature.



Flowers for butterflies



Attracts



Colour



Where to plant?



Type of plant



When to plant?



Top Tip

Buddleja

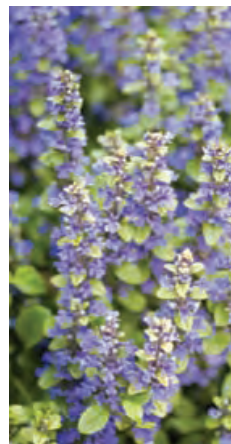
Buddleja davidii 'Harlequin'



- Red Admiral, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell
- Shrub
- Soft lilac/pink
- Spring
- Requires full sun
- Buddleja is grown best in fertile, well drained soil

Bugle

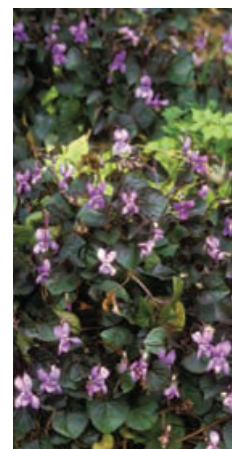
Ajuga reptans



- Wood White, Duke of Burgundy, Pearl-Bordered Fritillary
- Evergreen perennial
- Purple
- Spring
- In shade or partial shade
- Requires moist soil to grow well and prefers partially shaded areas of the garden

Common Dog Violet

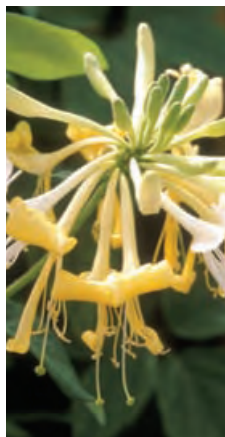
Viola riviniana



- High Brown Fritillary, Pearl Bordered Fritillary
- Perennial
- Deep purple
- Autumn
- Grows in sun or partial shade
- Can be used in shaded areas of the garden and in the front of a herbaceous border

Common Honeysuckle

Lonicera periclymenum



- White Admiral
- Shrub
- Light yellow/white/light pink
- Summer
- Full sun, partial shade
- Plant so the roots are in shade but the stems and flowers can grow out into sun

Cowslip

Primula veris





- Duke of Burgundy
- Perennial
- Yellow
- Spring
- Requires full sun
- Plant needs well-drained, dry soil

Honesty

Lunaria biennis







-  Orange Tip, Large White, Small White
-  Biennial
-  Light pink/purple
-  Spring/summer
-  Grows in sun or partial shade
-  Dry the seed pods indoors so they can be used in flower arrangements

Sedum

Sedum spectabile








-  Brimstone, Comma, Speckled Wood, Painted Lady
-  Perennial
-  Pink & red
-  End of summer, autumn
-  Can tolerate poor soils and hot, dry areas. Does not like waterlogged soil or too much shade
-  Leave the old cluster of leaves during the winter to protect the roots. Cut down in the spring when new shoots appear

Lavender

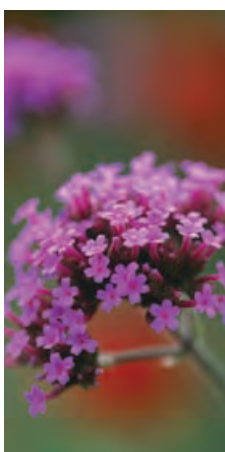
Lavendula angustifolia 'Hidcote'









-  Brown Argus, Comma, Large White, Meadow Brown
-  Evergreen shrub
-  Deep purple flowers
-  Spring
-  Any part of the garden that is not shaded
-  After flowering, old flower heads and leaf stems should be trimmed

Verbena

Verbena bonariensis



-  Meadow Brown, Small White, Painted Lady
-  Perennial
-  Lilac
-  Spring
-  In well drained, light and moist soil
-  To avoid damage during winter months don't remove dead stalks until the spring



Did you know?

Creating a wild area within your garden can encourage butterfly species to breed. To create your wild area, simply allow the grasses and wild flowers already there to grow or alternatively, supplement with extra plants. In the first year of growing the wild area, cut the area several times in order to allow your wild flowers a chance against other competitive grasses.



Show off your photographic skills



PlantforLife is offering one lucky person the opportunity to win a family trip to the European Butterfly House, Parc Floral de Paris, with two runner's up winning trips for the family to one of the UK's fabulous Butterfly Houses. For your chance to win, all you need to do is submit an eye-catching photograph which captures the beauty of butterflies and plants in their natural habitats.

Your photographs will be judged by celebrity gardener, Chris Collins and award-winning photographer Steve Hoskins, whose interest in wildlife photography has taken him across the globe. Steve's work has been selected for the prestigious Association of Photographers (AOP), Royal Photographic Society and John Kobal awards with his images for the latter being displayed in the National Portrait Gallery.

Steve Hoskins' butterfly photography hints & tips

1

Try to pinpoint areas that butterflies inhabit frequently and identify species using field guides. Certain plants attract certain species and an understanding of this will help you to quickly and easily locate butterflies in your local area or park.

2

Butterflies are often less active early in the morning or later in the afternoon so you will stand a better chance of getting closer to them if you capture your images during these times.

3

Butterflies often keep returning to the same flower so try setting your camera up on a tripod or sand bag and play a waiting game with a release cable or remote trigger attached to your camera.

4

Butterflies are also quite sensitive to shadows being cast on them whilst feeding, so try to avoid this and wherever possible try to use the longest lenses or zoom setting you have available so that you don't have to get too close to your subject and so avoid disturbing them.

5

The use of a flash whilst photographing butterflies can make all the difference to your pictures, especially when trying to freeze motion, add depth of field or simply lighten shadow areas.

**"Flowers & butterflies
drift in colour,
illuminating
spring"**
Author
unknown



Log on to www.plantforlife.info/butterflies to upload your photographs and to find out further information.

*“Just living
is not enough
said the butterfly,
one must have
sunshine,
freedom
and a little
flower”*

Hans Christian Anderson



*Campaign financed with aid
from the European Union*



All quotes attributed to www.quote garden.co.uk/butterflies